

Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 1

Name: _____ / Date: ___/___ Score: ___ / 7 ⏳ 8 min

解答時間の目安…合計:12分 :1題:4分 / 第2題:6分 / 見直し:2分

解答目標…合格圏目標:7問中 5問以上正解 / 上位安定目標:7問中 6問以上正解

Read each passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question.

Cool Roofs and Hot Cities

In many large cities, summer temperatures are higher than in nearby rural areas. This is called the urban heat island effect. It happens because roads, rooftops, and other dark surfaces absorb a great deal of sunlight during the day and release the heat slowly at night. As a result, city residents often suffer from discomfort for longer periods, and in severe cases, face greater health risks. Older adults, young children, and people with certain medical conditions are especially vulnerable when the heat continues after sunset.

To deal with this problem, some cities have promoted the use of “cool roofs.” These are roofs made of materials that reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than ordinary roofs. This can reduce indoor temperatures, lower the need for air conditioning, and cut energy use. If many buildings in one area use such roofs, outdoor temperatures there may also drop slightly. Supporters therefore argue that cool roofs can help both public health and the environment.

However, some people question whether cool roofs are the best answer. Their effects depend partly on climate. In places with long, cold winters, roofs that reflect heat in summer may also make buildings a little harder to warm in winter. Cost is another issue. Although cool roofs may reduce bills over time, the initial expense can be difficult for homeowners and small businesses. Critics also say that cities should invest in other measures, such as planting more trees and creating more shaded streets.

Many researchers therefore see cool roofs as only one part of a broader strategy. No single measure can solve the urban heat island effect, but several approaches used together may make cities safer and more comfortable.

Questions

(1) What is one reason city temperatures often stay high at night?

1. Urban buildings prevent sunlight from reaching rural areas.
2. Dark city surfaces store heat during the day and release it slowly later.
3. Air conditioning units in cities produce more heat than cars do.
4. Rural areas cool down because they have fewer medical facilities.

(2) What does the author suggest about cool roofs?

1. They are useless unless every building in a city has one.
2. They are most effective when used together with other urban measures.
3. They mainly benefit people living in very cold regions.
4. They are too expensive to be practical in any city.

(3) Which of the following is true according to the passage?

1. Cool roofs always reduce yearly heating and cooling costs in every climate.
2. Opponents of cool roofs deny that cities are becoming hotter.
3. Some people think cities should invest in additional solutions besides cool roofs.
4. Researchers have concluded that cool roofs alone can eliminate urban heat islands.

The Return of Repair

For much of the twentieth century, when household items broke, many people tried to fix them. Repair shops were common, and consumers often expected appliances, clothes, and furniture to last for years. In recent decades, however, this changed in many countries. As manufacturing became cheaper and new goods became easier to buy, replacing an item often seemed simpler than repairing it. This trend was strengthened by changing fashions, strong advertising, and products that were hard to open without special tools.

The results of this replacement culture are becoming more serious. Discarded electronics, in particular, have created a growing waste problem. Many devices contain useful metals that could be reused, but they also include harmful substances that may damage the environment if not handled properly. Constant replacement also requires more raw materials and energy. Because of this, some activists, policymakers, and consumers now argue that repair should be made easier again.

One response has been the spread of repair cafés and community workshops. At these events, skilled volunteers help people fix broken lamps, bicycles, and small appliances. Their purpose is not only practical but also educational. Participants often learn basic repair skills and begin to feel that objects they once would have thrown away may still be valuable.

At the same time, some governments are discussing “right to repair” laws. These would require manufacturers to provide spare parts, repair manuals, or software access. Supporters say such laws would reduce waste and give consumers more freedom. Manufacturers, however, argue that modern devices are complex, that improper repairs may create safety or cybersecurity problems, and that sharing too much information could weaken innovation.

The debate is therefore about more than simply fixing old things. It reflects a broader question about whether society should continue to prioritize convenience and quick replacement or place more value on durability and reduced waste.

Questions

(4) What does the author say about the change in consumer behavior?

1. It was largely caused by a decline in the quality of repair workers.
2. It happened because older products could no longer be repaired safely.
3. It was influenced by cheaper goods and products designed to be hard to fix.
4. It mainly occurred in countries where furniture was more expensive than electronics.

(5) According to the passage, what is one benefit of repair cafés?

1. They train people to become professional engineers.
2. They help people see broken items as worth repairing rather than discarding.
3. They allow manufacturers to test products in community settings.
4. They provide free replacement parts for all kinds of devices.

(6) Why do some manufacturers oppose right-to-repair rules?

1. They believe repair manuals are already too widely available.
2. They worry that greater repair access could create risks and reduce innovation.
3. They think consumers are not interested in repairing devices anymore.
4. They claim that broken products rarely contain reusable materials.

(7) What is the main point of the final paragraph?

1. Repair will soon replace mass production as the dominant economic model.
2. The repair movement is only successful because people miss the past.
3. The discussion about repair is really part of a wider debate about economic values.
4. Most consumers have already decided that convenience is less important than durability.